

SPECIAL MEETING
BOROUGH COUNCIL
BOROUGH OF RUMSON
March 29, 2007

A regular meeting of the Borough Council of the Borough of Rumson was held in the Charles S. Callman Courtroom of the Memorial Borough Hall on March 29, 2007 and was called to order by Mayor John E. Ekdahl at 4:40 p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance.

Present: Mayor Ekdahl, Councilwoman DeVoe, Councilmen Hemphill, Kammerer, Rubin and Shanley.

Absent: Councilman Broderick.

Thomas S. Rogers, Municipal Clerk/Administrator, was present.

Martin M. Barger, Borough Attorney, was present.

C. Bernard Blum, Jr., Borough Engineer, was present.

The Mayor declared a quorum present and announced that the notice requirements of the Open Public Meetings Act had been met by the posting and mailing of a notice forwarded at least 48 hours in advance thereof to the *Asbury Park Press* and the *Two River Times*.

COMMUNICATIONS:

None.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Councilman Rubin, Office of Emergency Management Coordinator, reported that he had received a notice from the New Jersey State League of Municipalities advising that use of Verizon fiber optic telephone service might result in the removal or abandonment of some copper telephone lines. The notice advised that it was important to understand that there would be an impact on municipality telephone communications during power outages; copper telephone lines are powered by the telephone companies by batteries and generators and service continues during power outages; and fiber optic telephone lines require that the subscriber provide a power source to function at all times, including during power outages. The notice further advised that municipalities and all subscribers who have switched to fiber optic service might lose telephone service during power outages, including 9-1-1 and other services; with copper lines the telephone service would continue. Councilman Rubin felt that it was important to read the notice into the record.

Councilman Kammerer suggested that this information be put in the upcoming Borough newsletter to make the residents aware of this situation.

Councilwoman DeVoe commended Mark Wellner, Department of Public Works Superintendent, for the exceptional job done by his department in the cleanup of the limbs and debris after the winter storms. She stated that Mr. Wellner had stated that they were near completion of the storm cleanup. Councilwoman DeVoe congratulated them all on a job well done.

In answer to a question by Mayor Ekdahl as to the official status of the cleanup, the Municipal Clerk/Administrator reported that the crews have been through the borough once and are about halfway through the second round. He stated that the normal spring cleanup has begun with smaller piles of yard debris, but the major cleanup was within about a week and a half away from completion.

Mayor Ekdahl agreed that the DPW had done a great job.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

BOND ORDINANCE TO APPROPRIATE \$7,937,000 FOR VARIOUS IMPROVEMENTS. PUBLIC HEARING:

The Municipal Clerk/Administrator stated that an ordinance entitled:

BOND ORDINANCE APPROPRIATING \$7,937,000
AND AUTHORIZING \$7,406,666 BONDS OR NOTES
OF THE BOROUGH FOR VARIOUS IMPROVEMENTS
OR PURPOSES AUTHORIZED TO BE UNDERTAKEN
BY THE BOROUGH OF RUMSON, IN THE COUNTY
OF MONMOUTH, NEW JERSEY

was scheduled for public hearing at this time. He stated that the ordinance had been posted and published and the affidavit of publication is on file.

The Mayor afforded the members of the Council an opportunity to be heard on this ordinance in final reading and no one responded.

On motion by Councilman Kammerer, seconded by Councilwoman DeVoe, the public were given an opportunity to be heard on this ordinance in final reading. All in favor.

Kevin Gaynor of 59 Lennox Avenue asked if the Police Department would be moved to the new Borough Hall.

Mayor Ekdahl stated that the Borough was preparing for that.

Mr. Gaynor asked the status of the shared services with other towns.

Mayor Ekdahl stated that, with shared services in mind, the Borough has a backup plan if the Police Department does not use the space.

Mr. Gaynor asked if shared services moved ahead, would it be feasible to house thirty plus officers that would serve multiple towns?

Mayor Ekdahl stated that the Police Department area was not build for that size.

Mr. Gaynor asked if there was a jurisdiction that would be able to house that number of police personnel.

Mayor Ekdahl stated that none of the three jurisdictions involved in the feasibility study were currently able to house a police department of that size, which he thought might be closer to forty-five officers. He said that presumably the study would provide us with the number of personnel required for joined forces.

Mr. Gaynor asked if the \$5,500,000 allocated in the Bond Ordinance for the new Borough Hall included the Police Department and the structures that would be required, including detention cells, or would there be more costs down the road.

Mayor Ekdahl stated that the cells have to be put in during the initial construction phase and that their cost was included. He added that if it was decided that the Police Department was not to be housed in the new Borough Hall, then the space would be utilized for other purposes.

Mr. Gaynor asked if the total cost for the Police Department was included in the \$5,500,000 cost.

Mayor Ekdahl stated that the full build out was not included in that cost.

Mr. Gaynor asked what the cost to the taxpayers would be to fully furnish and equip the space if the Police Department were to be included.

Mayor Ekdahl stated that everything structural was included in the plans, but the furnishings, communication equipment, etc. were not. He stated that the physical structure was included.

Mr. Gaynor stated that it had been stated in previous Council meeting minutes that the Borough Hall employees had been surveyed with regard to their needs and he asked why the other Borough employees had not been surveyed.

Councilman Kammerer stated that only the employees that they felt were going to be in the building.

Mr. Gaynor asked why that was if the cells were included in the plans.

Councilman Kammerer stated that the Borough had not made that decision at the time that the survey had been conducted. He added that the Police Department would be working out of their current facility and if and when a decision is reached to house them in the new Borough Hall, surveys would be done at that time to find out the needs of the personnel. He added that the Borough was forced to include the cells in order for the plans to move forward on the new building.

Mr. Gaynor asked if accessibility without stairs had been planned for the transportation of prisoners.

Councilman Kammerer advised that a wheelchair ramp for accessibility without stairs had been provided throughout the building.

Mr. Gaynor stated that the P.B.A. members would appreciate it if the Council would include the P.B.A. Health and Safety Committee to help in the planning the space if the Police Department are to be in the new Borough Hall.

Mr. Gaynor stated that he had a question regarding what exacting was included in the \$75,000 allocated in the Bond Ordinance for police equipment.

The Municipal Clerk/Administrator advised that the \$75,000 was for the requests of the Police Chief and senior Police Officers for computer equipment, live scan, and upgrades for another data terminal in one of the vehicles.

On motion by Councilman Kammerer, seconded by Councilman Hemphill, the public hearing on this ordinance was declared closed. All in favor.

The Municipal Clerk/Administrator requested that the minutes reflect that Councilman Broderick came to the meeting at 4:44 p.m.

Councilman Kammerer moved the adoption of this ordinance in final reading. Motion seconded by Councilman Broderick and carried on the following roll call vote:

In the affirmative: Broderick, DeVoe, Hemphill, Kammerer, Rubin and Shanley.

In the negative: None.

Absent: None.

NEW BUSINESS:

None.

COMMENTS FROM THE COUNCIL:

The Mayor afforded the members of the Council an opportunity to be heard at this time and no one responded.

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC:

The Mayor afforded the public an opportunity to be heard at this time and no one responded.

ADJOURNMENT:

On motion by Councilwoman DeVoe, seconded by Councilman Rubin, the meeting adjourned at 4:48 p.m. All in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Thomas S. Rogers, R.M.C.
Municipal Clerk/Administrator